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DECISION OF THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES

B-70827

(UNPUBLISHED)

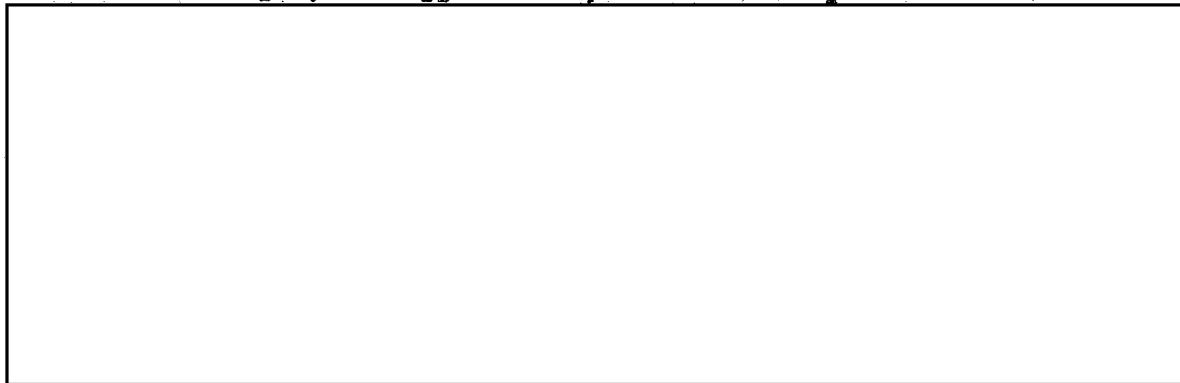
November 10, 1947

Newly appointed employees who, before reporting to their first permanent duty post, perform actual services other than training and indoctrination at another post may be paid travelling expenses from that other post to the first post of permanent assignment.

COMPTROLLER GENERAL WARREN TO THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

Reference is made to your letter of October 31, 1947, requesting a decision as to whether, under the circumstances hereinafter set forth, Washington, D. C., properly may be considered as the first post of duty for two employees of your Agency.

It appears the first employee named in your letter received notice of his appointment in the Central Intelligence Agency on May 21, 1947, and traveled to Washington, D. C., at his own expense where he entered on duty the following day, May 22, 1947. At the time of the employee's appointment, it was anticipated that he



The facts with respect to the second employee named in your letter are similar to those of the first employee in that the second



pursuant to transfer orders dated July 11, 1947, authorizing travel at Government expense.

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It is indicated that the official stations of both employees were designated as Washington, D.C., in the first instance, primarily because of the difficulty in anticipating how long the employees would be required to remain in Washington prior to the actual establishment of offices [redacted] also, because of the additional cost involved if the employees were to be considered in a temporary duty status and allowed per diem in lieu of subsistence while in Washington.

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It is well established that civilian employees are required to place themselves at their first duty station at their own expense in the absence of express statutory authority for the payment of said expenses by the Government. 7 Comp. Gen. 203. Also, it has been held that an order directing an employee to Washington or to a field office for preliminary training before permanent assignment does not establish the first duty station of the employee at the place of training and that he is required to bear his own expenses in reporting to the place finally fixed as his post of duty. 10 Comp. Gen. 415; 20 id. 820. However, with respect to the performance of actual services in addition to training it was held in 21 Comp. Gen. 7, as follows (quoting from the syllabus):

"Newly appointed employees who are first assigned for training and duty at Washington, D.C., or elsewhere, may be paid their traveling expenses from such place of training and duty to subsequently assigned duty station. 10 Comp. Gen. 222, involving the performance of temporary duty before reporting to first duty station, distinguished."

It informally has been ascertained from your office that the employees involved in the instant case actually performed services other than duties connected with training or indoctrination during the periods they were assigned to Washington. In view thereof, and as it was not known at the time of their appointments just when the employees would be assigned to [redacted] for permanent duty the rule stated in 21 Comp. Gen. 7, supra, is deemed applicable to said employees and Washington, D.C., is to be regarded as their first post of duty.

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In that view of the matter your basic question as to whether payment may be made to the travelers and the carriers for expenses incurred in traveling from Washington, D.C., [redacted] respectively, under transfer letters and orders, as issued, is answered in the affirmative thus rendering unnecessary any answer to the other question propounded.

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